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OCI No. 1528/71

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
7 March 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PAKISTAN

(Situation as of 1200 EST)

1. Mujibur Rahman did not announce the secession of East Pakistan in his much-heralded speech before a large rally in Dacca on 7 March. Instead he demanded an end to martial law and the transfer of power to popularly elected representatives in East Pakistan before he would consider attending the national assembly announced by President Yahya for 25 March. He also demanded the return of troops to their barracks and inquiries into the killings in the East Wing during the recent period of violence. Following Mujib's speech the crowd at the rally broke up peacefully, and tension in Dacca appeared to be declining.

2. Mujib's demands would appear to be the least he could ask for if he is to retain the loyalty of the masses in East Pakistan.

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3. Although Dacca is generally quiet and the dusk-to-dawn curfew has been lifted, curfews remain in effect in other East Pakistani cities. The press reports that clashes between security forces and demonstrators in the port city of Khulna have resulted in 18 deaths and 86 wounded.

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4. Yahya has appointed Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan as Governor of East Pakistan. He will outrank the Martial Law Administrator for the East Wing, Lt. Gen. Yaqub Khan. Tikka Khan, a highly respected West Pakistani, is considered a tough but fair officer with a pragmatic approach to problems.

5. Prominent West Pakistani political leaders have welcomed Yahya's call for the meeting of the national assembly on 25 March. Z. A. Bhutto, leader of the largest party in West Pakistan, has reversed his previous position and has announced his willingness to attend the session. His earlier refusal to attend the session originally scheduled for 3 March helped trigger the crisis of the past week.

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6. Meanwhile, the government in Islamabad appears to be continuing efforts to bolster its forces in East Pakistan.

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7. The first major evacuation of foreigners from East Pakistan appears to be under way with the West Germans airlifting their nationals out of the province.

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